

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 03007 270859Z

21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 (ISO) W

----- 016680

R 261650Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4559

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ML

SUBJECT: THE TAX MAN COMETH

1. /CLOSED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES/ IS A COMMON SIGN APPEARING ON THE FRONT DOOR OF BOUTIQUES, STORES AND BARS AROUND BAMA KO DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS. THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AFTER A RECENT JOINT BUDGET REVIEW BY THE RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE AND THE GOVERNMENT, HAS ENERGETICALLY BEGUN TO COLLECT BACK TAXES.

2. EXPLAINING THE NEW MEASURES IN A RADIO INTERVIEW, MINISTER OF FINANCE FOUNEKE KEITA SAID THAT TAXPAYERS MUST PAY THEIR DUES SO THAT THE MALIAN STATE CAN MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS. HE CLAIMED THAT MALI WAS ONE OF THE RARE COUNTRIES WHERE CITIZENS HAD ALMOST COME TO BELIEVE THAT TAX EVASION WAS THEIR RIGHT AND THAT ALL TAXES ARE A PRIORI NEGOTIABLE BEFORE PAYMENT. COMPLETE AND PARTIAL EXONERATIONS OR REDUCED TAX ASSIEMENTS ARE CONTINUALLY BEING REQUESTED. PARADOXICALLY, SAID THE MINISTER, THE SAME CITIZENS WHO DON'T PAY THEIR TAXES ARE THE ONES WHO PROTEST WHEN THEIR SALARIES ARE NOT PAID ON SCHEDULE OR WHEN THE GOVERNMENT BILLS ARE NOT COVERED.

3. MANY PROMINENT MALIAN COMMERCIAL MEN HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THESE NEW MEASURES. THE PRESIDENT OF
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THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED LAST

NIGHT. THESE COMMERCIAL MEN COMPLAIN THAT THE
GOVERNMENT'S TAXES ARE NOT UNIFORMLY APPLIED AND THAT
THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF FAILS TO PAY THE MONEY IT
OWES THEM. WHILE THE EFFORT TO STOP WHAT HAS
BECOME WHOLESALE TAX EVASION MAY BE LAUDABLE, IN
TAKING THESE ABRUPT MEASURES THE MILITARY COMMITTEE
IS FURTHER ERODING ITS SUPPORT AMONG MALI'S ELITE.
THIS ADDS ANOTHER CLOUD TO THE UNSETTLED ATMOSPHERE
WHICH HANGS OVER THIS CAPITAL IN WHAT SHOULD HAVE
BEEN A CLEAR AND QUIET AUGUST.
RAWSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 AUG 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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